

# WHAT GOES IN THE COMPOST?

## Backyard Composting

### YES!

#### Edible items:

- Fruits and vegetables  
**No PLU stickers** in the compost!
- Eggs and eggshells
- Milk, cheese and other dairy
- Dressing and condiments
- Sauces and soups
- Bread, pasta, and pastries
- Coffee grounds
- Nuts (including shells)
- Spices, oils, and butter

#### Non-edible items:

- Paper egg cartons
- Coffee filters and tea bags
- Grass clippings, leaves, and yard waste
- Sawdust

### NO!

- Floral products
- Paper coffee cups
- "Compostable" cups, bags, and utensils

### YOUR CHOICE

- Napkins and paper towels
- Shredded newspaper and paper
- Meat and bones\*
- Fish and seafood\*

*\*Meat and bones must be managed properly or health and pest issues may arise. Meat and bones can be taken to a food scrap drop-off location. Vermont state law bans all food scraps from the landfill by 2020, but exempts meat and bones, giving home composters the choice.*



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MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

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# Backyard composting tips



- Vermont's Universal Recycling Law, Act 148, bans organics (leaf and yard waste and food scraps) from the landfill by 2020.

Residents will have the choice to drop food scraps at drop-off locations (for a fee), get a curbside pick up (for a fee), or manage their organics as animal food or backyard composting. Thus, the least expensive way to manage organics is in your own backyard. By doing so, you keep your soil fertility on site and can use it for your garden or house plants as a bonus.

- Food scraps will decompose on their own over time. Composting can be as easy as a pile.
- To speed up the process and make a richer compost, add carbon. Straw, hay, leaves, dry grass clippings, newspaper, paper, and punky wood are all examples of carbon.
- Keep critters out of the compost by using a container. If your container has no bottom, such as a typical wooden compost bin, bury hardware cloth 6 inches deep around it to make it rodent proof.
- CVSWMD sells Soil Saver compost bins and Green Cone solar digesters at cost to residents of the district. For more information, go to [cvswmd.org/composting](http://cvswmd.org/composting).



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